

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUSSEL 01020 071347Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /070 W
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R 071300Z JUN 77
FM AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3178
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USAREUR HEIDELBERG
USAFE RAMSTEIN
USCINCEUR STUTTGART

UNCLAS DUSSELDORF 1020

MILITARY ADDEES FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJECT: BIEDENKOPF ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE WESTPHALIAN CDU

1. PROFESSOR DR. KURT BIEDENKOPF WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE WESTPHALIA/LIPPE CDU AT THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THAT ORGANIZATION ON JUNE 3, 1977. HE ACCUMULATED 333 OF 396 VOTES CAST. BIEDENKOPF, WHO SHOWED SIGNS OF NERVOUSNESS PRIOR TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ELECTION RESULTS, HAD EXPECTED MUCH LESS, ESPECIALLY FROM THE LABOR WING, WHICH WAS DISPLEASED WITH THE WAY BIEDENKOPF ATTACKED THE TRADE UNIONS DURING THE LAST FEDERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

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2. BIEDENKOPF HAS SELECTED THE WESTPHALIAN CDU, WITH 124,000 MEMBERS THE SECOND STRONGEST CDU REGIONAL ORGANIZATION, AS A POWER BASIS. IN HIS ACCEPTANCE SPEECH HE LEFT NO DOUBT THAT HE WOULD NOT RESTRICT HIS ACTIVITIES TO THE WESTPHALIAN DISTRICT BUT THAT HIS INTERESTS WOULD EXTEND TO THE STATE OF NORTHRHINE-WESTPHALIA, TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND EVEN TO EUROPEAN

AFFAIRS.

3. THIS MEANS THAT BIEDENKOPF INTENDS TO CHALLENGE THE POSITIONS OF NRW CDU LEADER HEINRICH KOEPLER AND OF FEDERAL CDU CHAIRMAN HELMUT KOHL. FORMER WESTPHALIAN CHAIRMAN HEINRICH WINDELEN, WHO WAS ELECTED HONORARY CHAIRMAN AND THUS RETAINS AN INFLUENTIAL POSITION IN THE PARTY, DECLARED THAT THERE WAS NO RULE WHICH FOREVER ASSIGNED THE LEADING POSITIONS IN THE NRW/CDU TO THE RHINELANDERS. KOEPLER IS PRESENTLY CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT PRESIDUM OF THE RHINELAND AND WESTPHALIAN CDU ORGANIZATIONS, AS WELL AS CDU FRACTION LEADER IN THE STATE ASSEMBLY (LANDTAG).

4. BIEDENKOPF AND HELMUT KOHL, WHO HELD THE MAIN SPEECH, BOTH CONCENTRATED THEIR ATTACKS MAINLY ON THE FDP, CHARGING THAT THROUGH ITS ADHERENCE TO THE COALITION WITH THE SPD IT WAS PERPETUATING A BANKRUPT ADMINISTRATION. THE CDU WOULD NOT RUN AFTER THE FDP. BUT KOHL NOTED THAT THE CDU WOULD HAVE TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM WHICH WOULD APPEAL TO THE FDP. BIEDENKOPF ALSO STRESSED THE NECESSITY OF A CLEAR AND CONVINCING PROGRAM AND ANNOUNCED THAT THE WESTPHALIAN CDU WOULD WORK OUT SUCH A PROGRAM IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

5. COMMENT: BIEDENKOPF WILL CERTAINLY MOVE THINGS IN NRW POLITICS. HE IS PLANNING TO KEEP ALOOF FROM THE VARIOUS INTEREST GROUPS OF WHICH THE PARTY IS COMPOSED AND ACT AS INTEGRATOR AND ARBITRATOR. HE IS AMBITIOUS
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ENOUGH TO REACH FOR THE HIGHEST POLITICAL HONORS WITH THE SUPPORT OF A STRONG REGIONAL ORGANIZATION.

6. ACTUALLY THE FEELINGS IN THE WESTPHALIAN CDU AGAINST THE FDP ARE NOT AS STRONG AS INDICATED BY KOHL AND BIEDENKOPF. DELEGATES WHO REPORTED ON SUCCESSFUL LOCAL CDU/FDP ALLIANCES AGAINST THE SPD WERE APPLAUDED STRONGLY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Sent Date: 07-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: BIEDENKOPF ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE WESTPHALIAN CDU
TAGS: PINT, GE, (BIEDENKOPF, KURT)
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